

Research Translation Conference Proposal Submission

Translating SBRP Triumphs into Public Health Progress:

Understanding and Implementing Effective Research Translation

Starting in 2005, each Superfund Basic Research Multi-project Grant (P42) has been required to include a Research Translation Core as part of its overall program. The purpose of this core is to "translate important research outcomes [emanating from the program] to appropriate audiences, thereby encouraging the accurate and timely use of these research products" and, thus, advancing public health. NIEHS specifies the inclusion of three key activities: 1) partnering with governmental agencies, 2) conducting technology transfer, and 3) communicating to broad audiences.

The 15 Research Translation Cores across the country consist of many types of projects closely related to the research undertaken as part of the Superfund Basic Research Program at their university. NIEHS has permitted a broad interpretation of research translation to accommodate the diverse nature of these research programs and to encourage creative approaches to this new endeavor. To date, however, there has been no systematic and detailed review of lessons learned and best practices among the Research Translation Cores. Such an undertaking could serve to enhance the performance of the individual RTCs and to facilitate collaborative endeavors both among the RTCs and with relevant partners.

In response to requests by SBRP staff and RTC colleagues, Meredith Golden, CoPI of Columbia's RTC, led a brainstorming session regarding a capacity building workshop on research translation (http://superfund.ucsd.edu/sbrp06_am.php). Her presentation took place at the Special Session on Community Outreach and Research Translation, prior to the 2006 SBRP Annual Meeting. An active discussion followed. Many of the 45 RTC participants articulated the need for a separate 2-3 day conference that would provide the time and expertise to examine in more detail the challenges and successes of research translation. The participants decided that a proposal should be submitted to NIEHS in July 2007 to request funding for a Research Translation Conference to explore these issues.

The Columbia SBRP RTC has agreed to take the lead in organizing and hosting the Research Translation Conference with inputs from the other university Research Translation Cores. The conference development will entail exchanges among interested RTCs, SBRP staff, and the Conference Steering Committee via a customized wiki, teleconferences, and a get-together at the SBRP Annual Meeting in December 2007. The culmination of these efforts will be a 2 1/2 day conference in the late spring or summer of 2008.

All RTC staff and scientists will be invited to participate in the conference, at their program's expense. However, the conference will pay for the travel and accommodations of several RTC collaborators in order to enhance the meeting discussions. Based on RTC inputs to date, the conference will consist of presentations by a few key experts and several workshops applying research translation tools, techniques, and strategies to different thematic foci, such as TCEs, Arsenic, Mercury, Nanotechnologies, and Superfund Remediation Sites. The workshop sessions will encompass: Partnering with Government, Academia, Private Sector, and Public; Technology Transfer; Communications; Information Technology; and Evaluation Assessments. Poster discussions will also capture lessons learned and best practices from the Research Translation Cores. A digital archive of the conference materials and presentations will be available online to

harvest the findings from the conference and encourage ongoing discussions and interactions. The purpose of the conference will be to expand the capacity and strengthen the power of RTCs, thus maximizing the impact of SBRP research on public health policies and applications.

1. **Date:** The conference would be held for 2 1/2 days in late spring/early summer 2008.

2. **Location:** Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University

3. **Steering/Planning Committee (Tentative)**

SBRP Research Translation Core staff and scientists:

Monica Ramirez, University of Arizona
Kelly Pennell, Brown University
Anna Goodman Hoover/Lindell Ormsbee, University of Kentucky
Nancy Serrell, Dartmouth
Greg Howard/Thomas Webster, Boston University
Fred Pfaender, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Jeff Davis, Duke University
Amy Kyle, University of California
KC Donnelly, Texas A&M University
Keith Pezolli, University of California, San Diego
Daniel Chang, University of California, Davis

Potential Government Representatives:

Beth Anderson/Claudia Thompson/Maureen Avakian, NIEHS
Jayne Michaud, USEPA
Anne Venner, CDC (NEPHTP)
Brian Kaplan/Virginia Lee, ATSDR
Zoltan Szabo, USGS

Potential RT Experts:

Teresa Pardo, Deputy Director of the Center for Technology in Government, Univ. of Albany
Jane Downing, Assoc Director of Drinking Water, EPA Region I
Gail Bingham, President of RESOLVE

4. **Co-Sponsors:** Interested University SBRP Research Translation Cores

5. **Participants:** It is anticipated that the conference will host approximately 40 participants and include a total of 10 facilitators/speakers/workshop leaders and at least seven external collaborating partners from selected Research Translation Cores.

6. **Agenda:** Click here to see the preliminary [Conference Agenda](#) submitted to NIEHS. Details will be determined by the Steering Advisory/Planning Committee.

7. **Product of the Conference:** Workshop rapporteurs will be asked to summarize the best practices of research translation applications for each of the thematic breakout sessions. A digital archive of the conference materials and presentations will be available online to harvest the findings from the conference and encourage ongoing discussions and interactions. In addition, the conference wiki can be extended to facilitate ongoing discussions by the RTC staff and scientists.